

## COMMISSIONER PROFILE

# COMMISSIONER LYNN BROWN

Lynn Brown was born in Buffalo, Wyoming and graduated from Riverton, Wyoming High School.

### Degrees Held

He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a BS and MS in Civil Engineering.

He also attended Harvard and graduated with a Masters in Public Administration.

Lynn is an Engineer and Land Surveyor as well as an Instrument Rated Private Pilot.

### Work History

Lynn has worked in many areas of the country including Wyoming, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Washington, DC.

He worked for the Forest Service for five years while attending Harvard.

He also worked for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) which is now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). His cumulative years at NRCS total 32 years!

Lynn served 18 years as a State Conservationist.

### Committees / Appointments

#### *Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)*

Lynn is currently serving as a member of the Commission. He has been with WSCC for three years and served as Chair for two of those years.

He also serves as the Vice Chair on the Board of Supervisors for the Kittitas County CD. Lynn has served the Kittitas County CD for over three years.

#### *Washington Association of Conservation Districts*

##### *Plant Materials Center*

Lynn serves on the Board of the Plant Materials Center which is named after him.

Lynn was instrumental in establishing the Plant Materials Center as a resource for conservation efforts.

### Awards

Lynn has received many awards due to his continued commitment to conservation districts and the conservation of private lands.

During his time as a State Conservationist he was instrumental in coordinating recovery resources following the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Lynn continues to be a major influence in conservation efforts throughout the State of Washington.

### Family

Lynn and his wife Linda, have farmed near Ellensburg since 1998 raising Timothy Hay and horses (Tennessee Walkers). Their hay is exported to Japan.

They enjoy their children and grandchildren.

### Spare Time

Lynn enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing, horseback riding, and flying his personal aircraft.



Commissioner Lynn Brown

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*Protect, Conserve and Enhance the  
Natural Resources of the State*



## FROM THE CHAIR...TRACY ERIKSEN



The area meetings have all been held...it is now time to look forward to the WACD Convention in Spokane and the legislative session that will begin in January.

I wish to thank those Commission Members that were able to attend the area meetings and I apologize to the Northwest, Southwest, and the South Central areas for my absence. Executive Director Mark Clark did an admirable job of presenting the Commission Report at each of the area meetings.

A priority of the Commission this past year has been to better serve the needs of the conservation districts by being

more positive and supportive. The reports I have received indicate that we have achieved a measure of success. May I encourage you to express your appreciation to the staff when you talk to them.



From the meetings that I have attended, I have not been able to gauge whether the districts (supervisors and staff) really understand the potential that is within their grasp. I am excited for the districts and Commission! I am sure that in part, it is the result of the Commission recovering to full status.

We are thankful that WACD leadership had the vision to contract with Jim Jesernig to assist in lobbying and to educate WACD leadership and committee members on developing a legislative package. His training and experience as a lawyer, a past legislator, and Director of the Department of Agriculture give him a unique background and skill as a lobbyist for state legislative matters.

The education process benefited both of us. During the last legislative session, Jim Jesernig learned who the districts and the Commission were and that the districts would respond when called on for legislative action. The

letters and calls made by district personnel and supervisors to legislators was extremely important in the restoration of the Commission. It was no small feat!

Currently, under the guidance of Jim Jesernig, WACD is working on decision packages that will become the position for the 2004-05 legislative session. Commission staff are working with state agencies and the Governor's staff. The value of conservation districts and how districts can be used to resolve environmental concerns is becoming clearer. Over time, we hope that our priorities will, in part, become part of their priorities. This will have a dramatic effect on how conservation districts are viewed by state government.

Communication and coordination are the cornerstone of our success. If we continue to work very hard with similar missions and goals, success will certainly follow. I welcome your phone calls and emails, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

These are exiting times—be a part of it—volunteer!

*Tracy Eriksen*  
Chair

## SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



The Conservation Commission is committed to sustainable business practices that contribute to the long-term protection and enhancement of our environment,

our economy, and the health of current and future generations.

We have developed a Sustainability Plan to raise awareness of sustainable practices in the workplace by minimizing energy and water use; shift to non-toxic, recycled and remanufactured materials in purchasing and

construction, and purchase environmentally preferable products and services.

We encourage everyone to do their part. It has to begin somewhere. If we all work together - future generations will thank us for the better world they live in!

When you are making a decision whether in the workplace or at home, ask yourself:

- Is it good for business?
- Is it good for society?
- Is it good for the environment?

### Think About It...

A ton of paper made from 100% wastepaper (100% recycled postconsumer content), instead of virgin fiber, saves:

- 17 trees
- 7,000 gallons of water
- 60 pounds of air-pollution
- 4100kwh of energy
- Three cubic yards of landfill space, and taxpayer dollars which would otherwise be used for waste-disposal costs.
- One tree makes about 11,500 pages of 8.5 X 11, 20 pound paper.



[http://filecab.scc.wa.gov/Commission/Plans/Conservation\\_Commission\\_Sustainability\\_Plan\\_03.doc](http://filecab.scc.wa.gov/Commission/Plans/Conservation_Commission_Sustainability_Plan_03.doc)

# EVOLUTION OF THE WATER QUALITY GRANTS PROGRAM

On February 15, 1986, The Centennial Clean Water Fund (Water Quality Account) was created by the legislature. Providing financing for water pollution control activities and facilities, this legislation was one of the most significant environmental laws passed in our state's history for protecting and enhancing the quality of the surface and underground waters of the state.



## 1987-1989, 1989-1991, and 1991-1993 Bienniums

The Conservation Commission received 2½ percent of the legislative biennial Water Quality Account appropriation for distribution to conservation districts. Of the 2½ percent, 10 percent was set aside for research grants. Both conservation district and research grants were awarded through a competitive process.

## 1993-1995 Biennium

The Commission continued to receive 2½ percent of the legislative biennial Water Quality Account appropriation for distribution to

conservation districts. However, in order to better meet the needs of all 48 conservation districts, the Commission changed its policy for distributing these funds. Ten percent for

research grants and a small pot for competitive grants was still set aside, but the remainder of the funding was distributed as a \$25,000/biennium Allocation Grant to each conservation district.

## 1995-1997, 1997-99 and 1999-2001 Bienniums

The 2½ percent and the research grant restrictions dropped out of the legislative language, and the Commission received specified amounts each biennium for distribution to conservation districts. In order to better reflect the types of activities that were being accomplished with

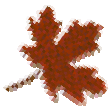
the grant funds, Allocation Grants became \$80,000/biennium Implementation Grants to each of the 48 conservation districts. A small competitive pot of money was also distributed during each of the three bienniums.

## 2001-2003 and 2003-2005 Bienniums

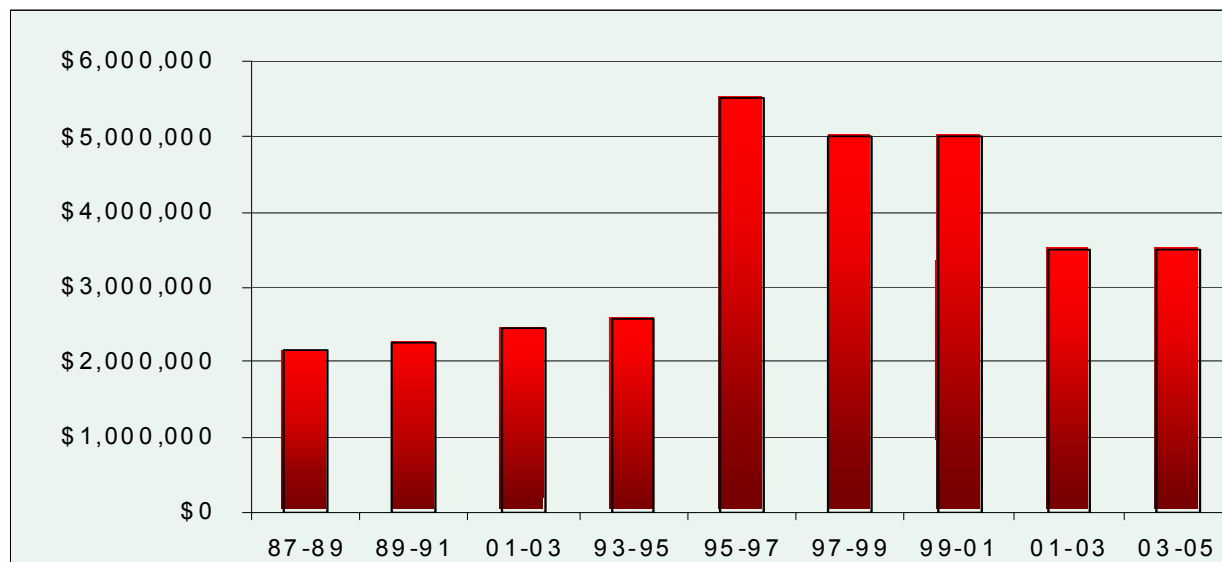
The Commission received \$3.5 million per biennium for the Water Quality Grants Program. Initiated in the 2001-2003 Biennium as a test run, the Commission awarded 2003-2005 funding based on statewide evaluations that considered the

level of implementation activities in each grant project. Two levels of funding, with the higher level

being 30% above the lower level, were distributed. In order to receive the higher level of funding, a district project needed to dedicate 60% or more of their total project costs to funding implementation activities.



## WATER QUALITY FUNDING TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS





## COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOUR



**Norm McClure of the Okanogan CD.**

The Okanogan Conservation District hosted a Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Tour on October 2, 2003, in Twisp. The tour was well attended by approximately 75 people including, among a few: Mark Clark, Valoria Loveland (Director) of WSDA, Bruce Mackey of DNR, Gus Hughbanks of NRCS,

Steve Landino of NOAA, and Lisa Pelly of Fish & Wildlife.

Special thanks to Norm McClure and the Okanogan CD for all the work they did putting the tour together.

The tour illustrated how CRM was being used and highlighted both CREP and the Irrigation Efficiencies Program. There was great dialogue between

landowners. This process gives parties the opportunity for involvement and to work together leading to a proactive approach to solving problems.

The landowners involved in these projects have been farming these farms for many years and feel that the proactive approach helps to keep them on the farm for future years.

The first site toured was an irrigation efficiencies project in Beaver Creek. Center pivot systems were installed along with fencing and planting of some of the riparian areas.

The second project was an irrigation water diversion and fish screen. The stream had grade control structures installed to provide fish passage.

Both of these projects were conceived and planned through the CRM process.



## CULTURAL RESOURCES

Bill Broughton attended Cultural Resources training in the Dalles, Oregon. Bill reported that it was an outstanding training which included information on how cultural resources can affect our small agency and the conservation districts.

Concepts that were taught were:

- An understanding of why cultural resources are important to our society.
- How to identify sites as important for cultural resources.
- How the perspectives of different groups of people can make objects and processes important to them.
- Histories, whether written or oral, make each person, family, or society important to themselves and to others.
- The laws (National Historic Preservation Act & other federal and state acts) that dictate how we respond to the protection of our cultural resources were explained.

The discussions were of great help in understanding why extra time and expenses are necessary to protect our historic sites.

Bill recommends that CC partner with one of the agencies that already have procedures and people in place to provide the expertise. Due to this training, Bill will now be able to help identify areas that could be of concern. Experts must be retained to do a proper investigation.



## SNOHOMISH TOUR

At the invitation of the Snohomish Conservation District, Ron Shultz, Policy Advisor to the Governor, went on a tour of several sites that have been improved by the district. Debbie Becker of the Commission staff rode with Mr. Shultz and attended the tour as well.

Sites visited included a diking site, CREP site, horse facility and a general drive through the area to point out some of the projects and description of the landscape in the district. The quality of the projects, the professionalism of the staff and were highly evident and the visit was extremely beneficial.

Districts are encouraged to provide opportunities to tour for Legislators, policy staff, and other state agencies.

**Left to right: Bobbi Lindemulder, Kim Levesque, Eric Schuh (hidden), Ron Shultz, Alan Shank, Dale Reiner, and Ryan Bartelheimer**

## COMMISSION GRANT REVIEW—CGRS

This November, Grants Staff will begin conducting Commission Grant Reviews of all conservation districts that receive Commission grant funding. It is our goal to complete all 48 conservation district Grant Reviews by the end of the biennium (June 30, 2005).

The Commission Grant Review is designed to be used in conjunction with the District Operations Review to ensure fiscal and programmatic accountability of Commission grant funds awarded to conservation districts. These reviews will reinforce sound grant accounting methods and procedures, and identify opportunities for making improvements.

The Commission Grant Review form and policies / procedures are in the final development phase. Drafts developed by Commission staff have been sent to every conservation district for their review and input. Once feedback and comments are incorporated, a field test will be performed by Grants Staff with one of the local districts to develop continuity in the way grant reviews are conducted, and to iron out the last minute kinks.

Grant Reviews will be conducted by Grants Staff at the conservation district office, and will include a question and answer session conducted with at least the district bookkeeper / accountant (Supervisors are encouraged to attend the review as well). The Grant Review will also include a Testing of Transactions section and a site visit of at least two sites to view projects implemented with Commission grant funds.

Results of the Commission Grant Review will be relayed back to the conservation district board, depending on logistics, travel costs, and work loads, in one of three ways: 1) Grants Staff will present the Grant Review results to the board of supervisors at the next monthly district board meeting, 2) Field Service Managers will present the Grant Review results to the board of supervisors at the next monthly district board meeting, or 3) The Grant Review results will be mailed to the board of supervisors for their review and acceptance at the next monthly district board meeting.

## COMMISSION TOUR—OKANOGAN

We toured four sites in the Methow Valley: an abandoned gold ore mining site, a salmon habitat recovery site, an irrigation water management (IWM) project, and an irrigation efficiency site.

The mine site was in a hazardous waste site that the District cleaned up and replanted using an Ecology grant. Lime and biosolids were laid on the area. Trees and shrubs were planted as well.



The salmon site was a project put together by the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation with district assistance. This project provided off stream rearing habitat for young salmon. They raised 10,000 young salmon in this series of ponds.

The IWM project used moisture meters to provide the landowner with data to control water use maximizing efficiency of the system using less water to grow the same crop which leaves more water in the stream.

The last stop on the tour was at an irrigation efficiencies project. They hope to get this project funded. This project led to a lot of discussion on how the program can benefit the landscape and the operator.

*Left to right: Norm McClure, Ray Groomes and Craig Nelson*

## AREA MEETING AWARDS

### **Southwest Area Meeting**

Awards were presented by Commissioner Reid to:

*Clark CD*

*Joe Florek, Jr. (Supervisor)*

*Michael Johnson (Manager)*

*Jennifer Boehm (Employee)*

### **Northwest Area Meeting**

Awards were presented by Commissioner Peters to:

*Whatcom CD*

*John Boulton (Supervisor)*

*Brandy Reed and Geoff Reed (Managers)*

*Ryan Bartelheimer (Employee).*

### **Southeast Area Meeting**

Awards were presented by Commissioner Eriksen to:

*Columbia CD*

*Jim Druffel (Supervisor)*

*Duane Bartels (Manager)*

*Audrey Ahmann (Employee)*

### **Northeast Area Meeting**

Awards were presented by Commissioner Eriksen to:

*Spokane Co. CD*

*Jim Carney (Supervisor)*

*Claudia Michalke (Manager)*

*Elsa Coffman (Employee)*

### **South Central Area Meeting**

Awards were presented by Commissioner Peters.

*South Yakima CD*

*Sherry Penney (Supervisor)*

*Jim White (Manager)*

*Tim Kopf (Employee)*

### **North Central Area Meeting**

Awards were presented by Commissioner Eriksen to:

*Foster Creek CD*

*Dan Roseberg (Supervisor)*

*Craig T. Nelson (Manager)*

*Jeff Ediger (Employee)*

**Congratulations  
on a  
job well done!**





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***We help protect, conserve and  
enhance natural resources.***

Our Website:

**[www.scc.wa.gov](http://www.scc.wa.gov)**

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AND DISTRIBUTE!**

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**The Commission Conversation Newsletter is available online at:**  
<http://filecab.scc.wa.gov/Newsletters/CCNewsNow.pdf>

## COMMISSION CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

28 Commission Reception  
w/Governor —Seattle

### NOVEMBER

5 Jefferson County Conservation  
District's Annual Meeting  
7:00 p.m. at the Chimacum Fire  
District #1 Hall

11 Veteran's Day

14 941 Deposit

18 Info Due to Commission for  
Upcoming Meeting

27 Thanksgiving

30 WACD Annual Meeting O& D  
Meeting—Spokane

### DECEMBER

1-2 WACD Annual Meeting—continues

3 Conservation Commission Meeting  
Spokane

15 941 Deposits

20 Governor's 2004 Supplemental  
Budget to Legislature due

25 Christmas

31 Notice of Election Resolution to  
Commission

### JANUARY

1 New Years Day

2 Semi-Annual Report Due for CREP  
grants

## WACD ANNUAL MEETING AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

WACD will be holding the Annual Meeting at the Mirabeau Park Hotel in Spokane beginning November 30, through December 3, 2003.

The Conservation Commission Meeting will be on December 3 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel following the WACD Annual Meeting. The Commission will meet at 12:30 p.m.

If you would like more information regarding the WACD Annual Meeting, please call Lori Mc Laughlin at the WACD Plant Materials Center, 360.757.1094.

If you would like more information regarding the Conservation Commission Meeting contact the Commission at 360.407.6200.

**October/November:** 2004 Supplemental Budget Decision Packages will be reviewed by the Office of Financial Management - Recommendations to the Governor.

